

# COMMUNIST PARTY OF TEXAS

## 1940 STATE PLATFORM

### VOTE FOR THESE CANDIDATES:

**For President** **EARL BROWDER**  
The General Secretary of the Communist Party of the United States.

**For Vice-President** **JAMES W. FORD**  
Well-known national leader of the Negro people.

**For United States Senator** **HOMER BROOKS**  
Texas State Secretary of the Communist Party.

**For United States Cong., 20th Dist. (San Antonio)** **EMMA TENAYUCA**  
Militant Leader of the Mexican workers of San Antonio and the border regions.

**For Governor of Texas** **BEN H. LAUDERDALE**  
A West Texas farmer, and an active member of the Texas Agricultural Association.

**For Lieutenant Governor** **CECIL B. ROBINETT**  
A militant young Houston leader of the fight for Negro rights.

**For Railroad Commissioner** **ENOCH HARDAWAY**  
A West Texas oil field worker (tool dresser), active member in the Oil Workers Union.

**For Attorney General** **J. LLOYD WRIGHT**  
Well-known in San Antonio and Texas labor circles.

**For Commissioner of Agriculture** **ORTON T. CAMPBELL**  
A leader in progressive activities in Waco, and student of farm questions.

**VOTE FOR PEACE!**

Neither the Democratic Party and its candidates for State office nor the Republicans have anything in their records that will benefit the long suffering and oppressed sections of the Texas people.

Scores of thousands of our elder citizens still suffer hunger and ill health physically, and humiliation mentally, by the lack of pension money, because monopoly interests refuse to shoulder the tax responsibilities required to meet pension needs.

Hundreds of thousands of Texans depend directly upon the land for a living. These farm workers, small tenants, sharecroppers, and the family sized mortgaged-farm owners are being thrown increasingly into the depressed, landless and wandering status of the Joads. This process is due to the long continued oppression of the processing monopolies, to the competition from large capitalist farm undertakings, and to the scarcity program of the federal government, etc.

Scores of thousands of workers are unemployed through no fault of their own; yet in most localities in the state, relief for their welfare is completely inadequate or non-existent.

Political democracy is extremely limited in Texas, which keeps the majority of the people from enjoying the right to vote. The white primary disfranchises the entire Negro population. The impossibility of meeting present naturalization requirements keeps the majority of the Mexican people disfranchised. The POLL TAX prevents the majority of the poor people—white, Negro, or Mexican—from voting.

Labor in Texas receives low wages. The State has a very inadequate workmen's compensation act. Labor has no state laws such as a Labor Relations Act to protect its interests, while an anti-labor Attorney General allows the monopolies to go scot free and persecutes the trade unions. Such conditions create favorable opportunities for employers to carry on the most intense exploitation of Texas labor.

Heavy taxes load down the small property owners. The present unequal distribution of the tax burden lets the oil industry off with a disproportionately low tax. The vicious tax load of the people threatens, under O'Daniel, to become still worse through the proposed sales tax on food and clothing necessities, as contained in the S.J.R. No. 12.

Finally, the most important problem to Texans and to all the people of the United States is that of maintaining this nation in peace. We are being driven headlong into the present imperialist war in Europe. The lives of our youth are threatened. The democratic rights of the people are being cancelled, Hitlerism thus being brought into America by our "own" Wall Street government.

These are the real issues facing the people of Texas. Most of these basic issues are side-stepped by the Democratic and Republican Party candidates. Where these issues cannot be side-stepped, the candidates champion the interests of the monopolies and trusts and attempt to convince the people that these interests are their interests.

The Communist Party is the only truly peace party in the 1940 campaign. It is the only Party that defends the true interests of all sections of the working people. The Communist Party therefore enters the 1940 election campaign with its own candidates, and with a people's platform that fully conforms with the present interests, needs and aspirations of the Texas people. The Communist Party pledges itself and its candidates to work for the achievement of the following program:

1. LABOR'S RIGHTS—A state Wage-Hour Act to put an end to under wages and a ceiling over hours, thus limiting to some extent the almost boundless exploitation now practiced against a large section of Texas workers. A state Labor Relations Act guaranteeing the right of collective bargaining to ALL workers employed in Texas. Denial of state and local public works contracts to all violators of labor's collective bargaining rights. End the use of special deputies, national guardsmen, or police against strikers. Amend the Workmen's Compensation Act to make it really adequate in line with amendments proposed by the AFL and CIO legislative programs. An "anti-injunction" in labor disputes act."

2. ADEQUATE SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM—Old age pensions to bring the minimum INCOME of every person over sixty up to fifty dollars per month; State aid to counties for purpose of providing adequate relief to all unemployed. Fulfillment of state obligations to the teacher retirement fund, and to the federal funds for blind and dependent children. State aid to localities in beginning a real health program.

3. AID TO THE FARM POPULATION—LAND TO THE LANDLESS, through state financing of farm purchases on a scale large enough to provide family sized farms, with equipment and production credit, for EVERY SHARECROPPER, TENANT, AND LANDLESS AGRICULTURAL WORKER in Texas. Payments for such state loans to be financed at low interest rates over a forty year period. A Tenant-Landlord Relations Act applying the principles of the Wagner Act to agriculture. State aid to cooperative marketing to enable small farmers to meet the competition of large capitalist farmers. Abolish railroad monopoly in transportation by lifting truck load limits. Tax relief to small farmers through extension of homestead exemption to include all local taxes. Graduated land taxes upon larger farms. Debt moratorium, and no foreclosures until cost of production returns are achieved by the average family sized farm.

4. TAXATION PROGRAM—NO SALES TAX. A twenty cents per barrel tax upon oil, graduated so as not to affect the small producers. A pipeline tax. Severance taxes upon sulphur, natural gas, and carbon black. A state income tax at approximately half the rate of the federal income tax. These measures together will bring to the state approximately \$200,000,000 that is now being siphoned out to New York by the big eastern financial interests who exploit the people of our state. This money, which should be taken by the people of Texas as their rightful share, will adequately finance the social security, pension, unemployment relief, health, and farm aid measures proposed by this program.

5. FULL RIGHTS TO THE NEGRO PEOPLE—Abolition of the white primary. Guarantee of the right to work in any craft or industry upon basis of equality with white workers. An equal educational system, including equal pay for Negro school teachers, a Negro state university equal in equipment to the present University of Texas. Equal opportunity to employment in all brackets of state and local public service—in general, abolition of all special measures of discrimination in the economic, political and social spheres.

## 6. END DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE MEXICAN PEOPLE

—Extend to all Mexicans of ten years' residence in Texas the right to vote regardless of citizenship, until federal citizenship requirements as to cost and language are modified, so that every Mexican desiring citizenship can become naturalized. Equal rights to all jobs, and equal pay for equal work. Punishment for all those who attempt to establish a Jim-crow system against the Mexican people in such public services as restaurants, parks, hotels, swimming pools, schools, hospitals, etc. Recognition of the Spanish language in the public school system and other official governmental agencies upon a basis of equality with English wherever a majority or substantial minority of the local population uses Spanish as their mother tongue.

## 7. EXTEND DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS TO THE SOUTH—Enforcement of the Bill of Rights of the State and Federal Constitutions. ABOLISH ALL UNDEMOCRATIC RESTRICTIONS UPON THE RIGHT TO VOTE, PARTICULARLY THE POLL TAX AND THE WHITE PRIMARY.

\* \* \*

Working people of Texas: The State Legislative Program of the Communist Party does not include matters coming more properly under the heading of national domestic and foreign policy since these are adequately dealt with in our national platform. The state and national platforms taken together deal with the most pressing immediate needs of all of the toiling masses. These measures proposed are for the most part already part of the legislative programs of the various farm, labor, youth, Negro and Mexican people's organizations of this country. They are not measures which go beyond the scope of the possibilities of the capitalist economic system, but rather are measures which can be realized now if those workers, farmers, and others who support these demands will unite and free themselves from the old capitalist-dominated political parties. The Communist Party, as well as increasing numbers of other people, realize that any fundamental solution of such problems as unemployment, war, exploitation, will await a socialist reorganization of the economic basis of society—the path which the Russian workers have so successfully followed during the past twenty-three years. Nevertheless, it is worthwhile, since the people are not yet ready for a socialist change, to organize, educate, and unite the trade unions, and other mass organizations of working people to carry through a sustained struggle for their minimum immediate needs, first and foremost of which are PEACE, SECURITY, JOBS, AND DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS. A vote for the Communist Party will be one more added force to help realize these needs of the working people. Don't waste your vote by casting it for one of the capitalist party candidates.

**Vote Communist in the 1940 Elections, November 5, 1940**

Texas State Committee of the Communist Party, USA.

Office address: 8038 Avenue E, Houston Texas.

Mail address: P. O. Box 1834, Houston, Texas.

San Antonio Address: P. O. Box 1754, San Antonio, Texas.

EMMA TENAYUCA, State Chairman.